

**Thailand's Remarks by
H.E. Ms. Morakot Sriswasdi
Ambassador and Resident Representative
at the Opening Ceremony of the 44th RCA National Representative Meeting
19 April 2022**

Deputy Minister,
Director General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour to be here this morning at the Opening Ceremony of the 44th RCA [Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology for Asia and the Pacific] and National Representative Meeting.

I wish to join the Director General in congratulating Viet Nam, our ASEAN partner, in assuming the role of RCA Chair for 2022. I am certain that under Viet Nam's Chairpersonship, the important works of the RCA to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear technology and applications in support of the socio-economic development will continue to be strengthened and enhanced.

I wish to also, on behalf of the Office of Atoms for Peace of Thailand who assumed the role of the RCA Chair for 2021, convey Thailand's appreciation to all RCA members and the Agency for their continued and strong support as well as good collaboration. The RCA's socio-economic impacts meet standards for "good performance" as mentioned in the two Reports on Social and Economic Impact Assessment of RCA Programme, both for Radiotherapy and Non-destructive Testing. This achievement reflects that the Programme benefits and contributes to the sustainable development of RCA members.

During the past year, we experienced the global pandemic, which consequently restricted us in carrying out our works as in normal situation. Despite such challenges, a number of cooperation projects and activities have been implemented. Several achievements were also made in 2021. These include the development of new initiative on RCA Scholarship Programme as well as the adoption of the 2024-2029 Regional Programme Framework (RPF). These achievements clearly reflect our shared commitment and determination to continue our works despite the unprecedented circumstances.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Looking forward to 2022, I hope that the good progress made in 2021 will continue and we can explore further on how to advance our regional cooperation. This year is also a good opportunity for us to take stock and review the achievements and progress made as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the RCA. For the past 50 years, the RCA has been an effective mechanism that contributes to sustainable socio-economic development in the region. It is important that we set the right course for the future of the RCA to ensure its relevance and responsiveness.

Finally, I wish to reiterate Thailand's commitment to the RCA as well as to work constructively and in close collaboration with all members and the Agency.

Thank you.
